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## Vesco Reportedly in Havana

### *NBC Says Castro Has U.S. Fugitive Guarded*

United Press International

Fugitive Robert L. Vesco, who allegedly contributed \$200,000 to President Richard M. Nixon's 1972 reelection campaign to avoid a federal investigation, is living in Havana under heavy surveillance by the Cuban government, NBC News reported last night.

Vesco, 49, lives less than a mile from the residence of Cuban President Fidel Castro, but he is almost out of money, has little furniture and is restricted in his movements by the Cuban government, NBC reported.

Vesco went to Cuba three years ago and lived well until he was stripped of his luxuries when the Havana government believed he was trying to swindle Cuba by smuggling high-tech equipment from the United States, NBC said. The equipment was intercepted by U.S. Customs Service agents in Texas, NBC reported.

The report said a Cuban intelligence agent—described as being fast with a gun—is assigned to keep Vesco alive, but out of view.

Vesco fled the United States in late 1971, apparently to avoid a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation.

He was reported to have become involved in cocaine traffic in 1983. NBC reported that Vesco was aided by the Soviet Union and lived in Nicaragua prior to going to Cuba.

Castro has denied that Vesco is living in his country.

The network said top U.S. diplomats had hampered Federal Bureau of Investigation efforts to arrest Vesco on drug charges.

In May 1971, the SEC subpoenaed Vesco after he bought 6.5 million shares of Investors Overseas Services Ltd. for 92 cents a share. Vesco soon fled to Costa Rica.

The case took on political overtones in 1973 when Harry Sears, who headed Nixon's 1972 reelection committee, said Vesco tried to persuade the Republicans to halt the SEC investigation. Sears said Vesco contributed \$200,000 to the Nixon campaign, but the money was returned because the SEC inquiry was in progress.